

ABSTRACT

This invention concerns the use of cyclopamine, a naturally occurring steroidal
5 alkaloid known for over thirty years, for the treatment of psoriasis and achievement
of rapid clearance of the psoriatic skin lesions together with the reversion of the
histopathological signs of disease to normalcy with no detectable side effects. The
cyclopamine-induced clearance of psoriatic lesions from the skin of patients is
associated with the causation of cellular differentiation in lesional epidermis and with
10 the rapid disappearance of CD4(+) lymphocytes and other inflammatory cells from
lesional skin. Therapeutic compositions comprising of cyclopamine and a
corticosteroid and/or the pre-treatment of lesions with a corticosteroid provide
significantly further increased therapeutic effectiveness over the use of cyclopamine
alone or a corticosteroid alone.

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